

**WISCONSIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

March 23, 2017

The Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened a public meeting via conference call on Thursday, March 23, 2017. The meeting was recorded and open to the public from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM CDT.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Berlinski, Heather
- Bleecker, Naheed (Chair)
- Bradley, Rebecca
- Hansen, Lee (Vice-Chair)
- Harris, Angelique
- Kelly, Daniel
- Thao, May yer
- Tisdale, William
- Xiong, Yang

Absent:

- Diaz-Bautista, Elsa
- Driscoll, Robert
- Means, Demond
- Pontynen, Arthur
- Shelton-Williams, Dawn

Commission Staff Present:

- Wojnarowski, Melissa (DFO)

Members of the Public Present:

- None identified.

Welcome and Roll Call

- The Chair conducted roll call and welcomed all members present.

Approval of Minutes, February 6, 2017

- Lee Hansen moved to approve the Committee's meeting minutes from 2/6/17
- May yer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Election of Vice-Chair

- The role of the Vice-Chair includes:
 - Assisting the Chair in preparation for Committee meetings
 - Serving as acting-Chair in the absence of the Chair
- Dan Kelly moved to nominate Lee Hansen as Committee Vice-Chair
 - Heather Berlinski seconded the motion
 - Lee Hansen accepted the nomination
 - The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote

Report Discussion

- The Committee reviewed a partial draft of their report on Hate Crimes and Civil Rights in Wisconsin, based on both 2013 and 2016 testimony, including comments submitted the Vice-Chair in advance of the meeting. (attached)
- The Committee discussed the following amendments:

- Lee Hansen: Addition of a paragraph up front about the differing definitions of hate crime, and adding the same information in a footnote throughout the report where new definitions are introduced (USCCR staff to incorporate)
- Yang Xiong: addition of individual stories about Asian American groups' experiences with hate crime (See 2016 testimony from Thai Vue). (Yang Xiong to draft suggested language)
- May yer Thao: mention of incident in Milwaukee in the last year that should be included, especially the Hmong community (May yer Thao to draft suggested language)
- Angie Harris: addition of a paragraph in the background section to note that Milwaukee is the most racially segregated city in the country, and WI the worst state in the country for black people to live (according to Casey foundation data). (Angie Harris to draft language)
- May yer Thao: p. 12, second paragraph that notes that WI ranks below the national average of reported hate crimes per residents – add context to this statement, such as the relationship between racial segregation and opportunity for hate crime to occur. (May yer Thao to draft language)
- Committee members are welcome to draft additional sections or revisions for review and discussion at the next Committee meeting.
 - USCCR staff will compile all edits and additions into a single revised document for review at the next Committee meeting.
 - Committee members should also begin thinking about recommendations to include in the report. Recommendations are to be directed to the USCCR, as advising the Commission is the role of the Advisory Committee. USCCR staff to send examples from other projects to the Committee for review.
 - All comments and revisions should be submitted to USCCR staff no later than **Friday April 14th, 2017.**

Civil Rights in Wisconsin

- Discussion of the Committee's next topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Open Comment – Public Participation

- At the conclusion of the meeting all public lines were opened for comment. No public comment was received.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1pm, CDT

Next meeting

- To be determined
- USCCR Staff will poll Committee members for availability